

## **Early Release of 2003 TRI Data**

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To better inform communities EPA today for the first time is releasing facility information about toxic chemical releases as reported to the agency. In the past this data was received, quality-checked, analyzed and released in the annual Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) report that resulted from the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986. The TRI program requires industrial facilities to publicly report quantities of toxic chemicals annually released into the air, water and land. TRI is an important tool that gives Americans public information on chemical releases for their community, so that they can make informed decisions about protecting their environment. The United States is an innovator in providing this level of openness in chemical reporting, and other nations are using TRI as a model. Many stakeholders have requested that the agency share TRI data sooner and in the basic format received, without waiting for further analysis. In response to these stakeholder concerns, EPA today is launching the first annual electronic release of facility-level TRI data, the Electronic-Facility Data Release (e-FDR). The data is presented for each facility received by EPA, one reporting form for each chemical. Increased electronic reporting allowed EPA to publish the earlier e-FDR, and is part of EPA's initiative to modernize and streamline the TRI program. Electronic reporting also supports data accuracy with built-in quality checks, and makes reporting easier for industry. The eFDR provides facility by facility reporting for Reporting Year 2003. The traditional Public Data Release, which includes more quality checks, national trends and analysis, is expected in Spring 2005. The e-FDR is now available at: <http://www.epa.gov/tri-efdr>.